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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

A principled political party

By Leonard Reed

Imagine a political movement truly committed to "equal rights". Not just a few cherry-picked rights but all human rights, including the most maligned -- property rights. Imagine a movement that opposes any and all special privileges from government.

In American history no such group has ever been as colorful and as thorough in its understanding of equal rights as the Locofocos that flashed across the political skies in the 1830s and '40s.

The Locofocos were a faction of the Democratic Party, mostly in the Northeast and New York in particular. Formally called the "Equal Rights Party," they derived their better known sobriquet from a peculiar event on October 29, 1835.

Democrats in New York City were scrapping over how far to extend Pres. Jackson's war against the federally chartered national bank at a convention controlled by the political machine, Tammany Hall. When Tammany Democrats expelled the radical William Leggett, editor of the *Evening Post*, they faced a full-scale revolt by a sizable and boisterous rump. The Tammany faction walked out, turning off the gas lights. The radicals continued to meet by the light of candles lit with matches called "loco focos" (Spanish for "crazy lights").

With the Tammany conservatives gone the Locofocos passed a plethora of resolutions. They condemned the national bank as an unconstitutional tool of special interests and an engine of paper-money inflation. They assailed all monopolies, by which they meant firms that received some sort of privilege or immunity granted by state or federal

governments. They endorsed a "strict construction" of the Constitution and demanded an end to all laws "which directly or indirectly infringe the free exercise of equal rights." They saw themselves as the true heirs of Jefferson, unabashed advocates of laissez faire and of minimal government confined to securing equal rights for all and dispensing special privileges for none.

In 1836, the Locofocos held a convention to devise a platform and endorse candidates to run against the Tammany machine. They declared themselves "the original Democratic party", hoping to steer the party of Jefferson and Jackson to a radical reaffirmation of its principled roots.

The "Declaration of Principles" the Locofocos passed at that gathering is a stirring appeal: "The true foundation of Republican Government is the equal rights of every citizen, in his person and property, and in their management. The rightful power of all legislation is to declare and enforce only our natural rights and duties, and to take none of them from us. No man has a natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another; and this is all the law should enforce on him. The idea is quite unfounded that on entering into society, we give up any natural right."

The convention pronounced "Hostility to any and all monopolies by legislation," "unqualified and uncompromising hostility to paper money as a circulating medium, because gold and silver are the only safe and constitutional currency," and "Hostility to the dangerous and unconstitutional creation of vested rights by legislation."

These days Congress and state legislatures routinely bestow

advantages on this or that group at the expense of those whom the same laws disadvantage, from affirmative action to business subsidies. The Locofoco condemnation of such special privilege couldn't be clearer: "We ask that our legislators will legislate for the whole people and not for favored portions of our fellow-citizens, thereby creating distinct aristocratic little communities within the great community. It is by such partial and unjust legislation that the productive classes of society are . . . not equally protected and respected as the other classes of mankind."

William Leggett, the man whose expulsion by the regular Democrats of Tammany Hall sparked the Locofocos into being, was the intellectual linchpin of the whole movement. Hired as assistant to famed poet and editor William Cullen Bryant at the *New York Evening Post* in 1829, he quickly became enamored of Bryant's philosophy of liberty. In 1834 he took full charge of its editorial pages. He struck a chord with the politically unconnected and with many working men and women hit hard by the inflation of the national bank.

In the state of New York at the time, profit-making corporations could not come into being except by special dispensation from the legislature. This meant, as historian Richard Hofstadter explained in a 1943 article, that "men whose capital or influence was too small to win charters from the lawmakers were barred from such profitable lines of corporate enterprise as bridges, railroads, turnpikes and ferries, as well as banks."

Leggett railed against such privilege: "The bargaining and trucking away of chartered privileges is the whole business of our lawmakers." His remedy was "a fair field and no favor,"

free market competition unfettered by favor-granting politicians. He and his Locofofo followers were not antiwealth or antibank, but they were vociferously opposed to any unequal application of the law. To Leggett and the Locofofos, the goddess of justice really was blindfolded!

The Locofofos won some local elections in the late 1830s and many of their ideas were embraced by Martin Van Buren when he ran successfully for president in 1836. By the middle of Van Buren's single term, the Locofofo notions of equal rights and an evenhanded policy of a small federal government were reestablished as core Democratic Party principles. There they would persist through the last great Democratic president, Grover Cleveland, in the 1880s and 1890s. Sadly, those essentially libertarian roots have long since been abandoned by the party of Jefferson and Jackson.

If you're unhappy that today's political parties give lip service to equal rights as they busy themselves carving yours up and passing out the pieces, don't blame me. I'm a Locofofo.

-- *The Freeman*, Jan-Feb, 2010

Supremes remove unconstitutional restrictions on political speech

NRA praised the U.S. Supreme Court's decision yesterday in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that removed unconstitutional restrictions on NRA's ability to speak freely at election time.

The late Sen. Paul Wellstone had said during the original debate over this [campaign finance] legislation that it was his intention to silence groups like NRA. While the author of this measure had singled out NRA, this law delivered a clear message to all American citizens: "Keep your mouths shut and stay out of our political debates."

-- NRA-ILA Grassroots Alert, Vol. 17, No. 3 1/22/10

Islamic "legal jihad" rebuffed for now

ANN ARBOR, MI – The Texas Supreme Court dealt another blow to Islamic organizations which use lawsuits as a form of "legal jihad" to silence public discussion of Islamic terrorist threats. On Friday, January 15, 2010, the Texas Supreme Court denied a petition for review of a Second District Court of Appeals opinion which

dismissed the defamation lawsuit brought by seven Dallas-area Islamic organizations against internet journalist Joe Kaufman.

For the last several years, Muslim groups in the U.S. have engaged in the tactic referred to as Islamist Lawfare which uses our American laws and legal system to silence critics and promote the Islamic agenda in America.

The Thomas More Law Center, a national public interest law firm based in Ann Arbor, Michigan acted as lead counsel for Kaufman, at no charge.

Richard Thompson, President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, commented, "It is gratifying to see a courageous citizen like Joe Kaufman withstand the legal intimidation of a well-financed lawsuit aimed at shutting down his right to speak out against the threats of radical Islam."

On July 25, 2009, the Texas Second District Court of Appeals unanimously ruled that as an internet journalist Kaufman had the same procedural protections under the Texas law given to traditional electronic and print media, including the right to a pretrial appeal. Accordingly, Kaufman had the right to appeal the lower court's denial of his motion to dismiss the frivolous libel claim before a time-consuming and expensive trial. Most parties have to wait until after a trial before they can appeal an unfavorable lower court ruling.

A full-time investigative reporter, Kaufman was sued because of his September 28, 2007 article titled "Fanatic Muslim Family Day" published by Front Page Magazine, an online news website. Kaufman's article exposed the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) and the Islamic Association of Northern Texas (IANT) ties to the radical terrorist group Hamas.

Kaufman's article called ICNA a radical Muslim organization with ties to Al-Qaeda and the Muslim Brotherhood. According to Kaufman, ICNA is an umbrella organization for South Asian-oriented mosques and Islamic centers in the United States created as an American arm of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) of Pakistan.

Significantly, neither ICNA nor IANT, which were mentioned in Kaufman's article, sued Kaufman. It is speculated they were afraid of being subjected to pretrial discovery

depositions. On the other hand, none of the seven plaintiffs that sued Kaufman were even mentioned in his article.

The Islamic organizations that sued Kaufman are affiliated with CAIR, one of the unindicted co-conspirators in the successful federal prosecution of the Holy Land Foundation.

This is the third straight loss for the Islamic groups in this case. However, plaintiffs can still file a petition for review with the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Thomas More Law Center is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations, and is recognized by the IRS as a section 501(c)(3) organization. You may reach the Thomas More Law Center at (734) 827-2001 or visit our website at www.thomasmore.org.

Crazy about Jersey

"He hated me and he was jealous of me at the same time because I had been to New Jersey," said a freed Iranian-Canadian reporter, speaking about an Iranian guard who was "fascinated" by life in the Garden State.
-- *60 Minutes* Nov. 22, 2009

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- <http://www.jpfo.org/filegen-a-m/dustar-knives.htm#dustar>

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-- JPFO ALERT Jan. 20, 2010

The Hippocratic Oath applied to intelligence

By Barry Eisler

Two themes are at the heart of Tim Weiner's phenomenal "Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA."

First, the Agency has been

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. – Mark Twain

incompetent from its inception. Its incompetence includes subversion operations that cost the lives of hundreds of agents and accomplished nothing; coups that backfired, the Bay of Pigs and many others. Even operations that "succeeded" were pyrrhic. The CIA-sponsored coup in Iran in 1953, for example, created enmity that resulted in the hostage crisis of 1979 and continues to this day.

Second, the Agency has consistently lied about its domestic lawbreaking. The fact that the modern CIA kidnaps and tortures terror suspects at secret prisons is not aberrant, but the legacy of programs like Project Artichoke and Project MKULTRA, in which the Agency built secret prisons in Germany, Japan and the Panama Canal Zone - where suspected double agents were tortured and dosed with heroin, amphetamines, sleeping pills and LSD. And, like the interrogation videotapes the CIA now claims it destroyed in 2005, the CIA also destroyed its records of these earlier illegal activities.

It's tempting to conclude that the CIA should never have been in the operations business -- after all, incompetence measured against subversion of the Constitution seems a bad bargain. But it's hard to see what the CIA's analysis has accomplished, either. Mostly the analysts have been disastrously wrong (on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, for example, the Agency continued to insist that it couldn't be a full-scale invasion), but even when the Agency has been right, it hasn't made a difference. When policy makers agree with CIA conclusions, they use those conclusions to justify what they were going to do anyway. When they disagree with those conclusions, they simply ignore them. Either way, the conclusions become irrelevant. You can have the best information and analysis in the world, but if it has no impact on policy, it's still a waste of resources.

Counterproductive operations, activities that subverted the rule of law, irrelevant analysis ... it's hard to read "Legacy of Ashes" and not conclude that America would be better off if the CIA had never existed.

Of course, politicians will never abolish the Agency. It is too useful for demonstrating to the public that a politician is doing something about a problem, and an iron law of American politics (perhaps all politics) is that a politician can never say, "We're doing as much as can reasonably be done about this problem, and attacking it further would only make things worse." Also, the CIA is easy to ignore when ignoring

it is convenient, easy to manipulate when CIA support is useful, and easy to blame when something goes wrong (say, a wrong-headed and unjustified war).

So what can be done? The solution, I think, lies in a critique of Weiner's book by Nicholas Dujmovic, available on the CIA's web site. Dujmovic writes:

"The intelligence services that are often judged to be superior to CIA - the Israeli Mossad, the Cuban DGI, the East German Stasi, and even the British SIS - are far more limited in focus and scope. CIA from the beginning was charged with worldwide coverage in all intelligence areas, something no other service, except perhaps the Soviet KGB, was required to do. If making no mistakes is Weiner's only standard, he has adopted an unrealistic one - a Platonic ideal for intelligence - that CIA, dealing with the world as it is, could only have failed to meet."

That last line is just a straw man: Weiner doesn't require that the CIA make no mistakes. No reasonable person would. But if Dujmovic's point is that the CIA is too diffuse to be effective, why not focus its mission? Eliminate its operations arm, which has consistently done more harm than good. As for analysis, do politicians really need secret information to formulate sensible policy toward, say, China? And even if they did, history suggests they wouldn't use it except to justify what they were going to do anyway. So, eliminate operations and ruthlessly focus on questions that only good intelligence can answer: the whereabouts of Pakistani nukes, for example, or the nature of terrorist financial networks, or how close Iran is to acquiring nuclear weapons. Resources are always finite, and an organization that's focused in part on China will inevitably be less focused on Pakistan - and will probably perform poorly on both.

-- www.truthout.org, 26 Jan. 2010

Legalize competing currencies

By Rep. Ron Paul

We have been on a disastrous course for a long time. The money supply has doubled in the last year, our debt is unsustainable, the value of the dollar is going to continue its drop, and Americans who understand where we are headed feel held hostage by foolish policy makers in Washington. When the bills finally come due and the dollar stops working we are in for some real social, economic and political chaos. That is, unless we take some major steps now to allow for a peaceful

transition. ***These steps are laid out in my legislation to legalize competing currencies.***

First of all, no one should be compelled by law to operate in Federal Reserve notes. We should repeal legal tender laws and allow Americans to conduct transactions in constitutional money. Only gold and silver can constitutionally be legal tender, not paper money. At present, it is illegal to conduct business using gold and silver instead of Federal Reserve notes. Simply legalizing the Constitution should be a no-brainer to anyone who took an oath of office. Consequently, private mints should be allowed to mint gold and silver coins. They would be subject to fraud and counterfeit laws, of course, and people would be free to use coins or stay with Federal Reserve notes. Finally, we should abolish taxes on gold and silver, which puts them at a competitive disadvantage to paper money.

The Federal Reserve is a government-sanctioned banking cartel that has held far too much power for far too long and is in the end stages of running the dollar into the ground, and our economy along with it. The very least Congress can do is to allow citizens the freedom to defend themselves from being completely wiped out by their monopoly power.

-- Campaign for Liberty, 1/26/10

Listen to Rep. Paul's weekly update by calling 888-322-1414

Survival – Part 2

By Pastor Chuck Baldwin

Self-defense:

Needless to say, during any kind of disaster, your safety and protection will be completely up to you.

In both the New Orleans and Los Angeles disasters, police protection was non-existent. Gangs quickly took control of the streets. In fact, in New Orleans, some policemen actually joined with the criminals, turning their weapons upon the public.

Therefore you must be armed! Also you must be able to efficiently use your arms.

These are my suggestions:

I believe every man (along with his wife and children of adequate age) should be proficient with a handgun in .38 caliber or above, a .22 rifle, a center-fire hunting rifle, a semi-automatic battle rifle, and a shotgun.

My personal preference for a self-defense handgun is either a .45 ACP 1911 (either Colt or Kimber) or a .40 S&W. In the .40 caliber, my favorite is a Glock 23. In the 1911, I like the

Commander configuration. I also like the Glock 30 and 36 in .45 caliber. My wife prefers a Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver in the snub-nose, J-frame configuration for carry purposes. If needed, she could make a good accounting of herself with a Glock 19 in 9mm. If you are someone who has seldom fired a handgun, I recommend you buy a Glock. They are as simple as revolvers to operate, reliable, and almost indestructible. Plus, they provide increased magazine capacity, and are safe and easy to disassemble and clean.

For a .22 rifle, I really like the Ruger 10/22. For a hunting rifle, my suggestion is either a .270 or .30-06 caliber bolt-action rifle. I prefer the Remington Model 700 BDL, but there are several fine weapons in this configuration and caliber by numerous manufacturers. For a battle rifle, I suggest an AR-15-style weapon in .223 caliber. Here I prefer a Bushmaster. (I love the Springfield M1A, too.) For a shotgun, I suggest a 12-gauge pump. Here I prefer a Winchester Model 1300, which is not made anymore. So, you'll probably have to choose between Mossberg and Remington.

Whatever you choose, practice so that you are able to use it proficiently. And be sure you stock up on ammunition. A gun without ammo is just an expensive club or paperweight.

Spiritual Power:

I firmly believe that man is created to have fellowship with his Creator-God. I really don't know how people can face the uncertain future that we currently face without the spiritual knowledge, wisdom, comfort, and power that is made available through Jesus Christ. I believe the maxim is true: "Wise men still seek Him." I strongly suggest that you seek to possess a personal relationship with God's only begotten Son.

That we are facing challenging days is a certainty. I trust that some of my suggestions will help you be better prepared for what lies before us.

Meet the Enemy

By Butler Shaffer

Half a century ago, as I was struggling to articulate a social and political philosophy with which my inner voices could find approval, I read *Our Enemy the State*, by Albert Jay Nock, that began the real transformation of my thinking. I soon became less interested in the pursuit of abstract philosophic reasoning and increasingly focused on the *realpolitik* of political systems.

The efforts of political philosophers to explain the origins of the state either as an expression of "divine will" or as the product of an alleged "social contract" begin to melt away when confronted by Nock's realism. He tells us that the state has its genesis not in some principled pursuit of a "common will" to resist some imagined perverse human nature, but in nothing more elevated than "conquest and confiscation." He echoes Voltaire's observation that "the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one class of the citizens to give to the other."

Nock's intellectual development was influenced by the German economist and sociologist, Franz Oppenheimer. Nock focused much of his attention on Oppenheimer's analysis of the two principal means – expounded in *Der Staat* – by which human needs can be met -- either through the exercise of "one's own labor and the equivalent exchange of one's own labor for the labor of others", defined as "economic means" -- or through "the unrequited appropriation of the labor of others", termed "political means." Nock elaborates upon Oppenheimer's thesis to describe how the state actually works. Because people tend to act with "the least possible exertion" in pursuing their ends, they will tend to prefer the *political* to the *economic* means, a trait that has produced the modern corporate-state – or what Nock referred to as the "merchant-State."

Nock saw his role as providing support and nurturing to "the Remnant," those independent men and women whose intellectual and emotional inquisitiveness provide them a profound understanding of the principles of the "humane life", individuals who will, once the civilization has collapsed, be the ones to "build up a new society" on the basis of their understanding of the "august order of nature." For such people alone, Nock tells us, was this book written.

Our Enemy, the State was first published in 1935, when the economic consequences of the New Deal were beginning to be felt. Nock spoke of writing a second edition, to elaborate on these effects. In the summer of 1945, however, he died without accomplishing this task. Nonetheless, as his friend Frank Chodorov commented in his preface to the book, "*Our Enemy, the State* needs no support," and stands as a sufficient indictment of political systems.

-- Butler Shaffer teaches at the Southwestern University School of Law

The PC smell test

Pause a moment, reflect, and take the following multiple choice test. But please, try not to be politically correct; do not let prejudice bias your answers in any way.

1. In 1968 Bobby Kennedy was shot and killed by:

- a. Superman
- b. The King of Sweden
- c. Harry Potter
- d. A Muslim male extremist between the ages of 17 and 40

2. In 1985 TWA flight 847 was hijacked at Athens and a US Navy diver trying to rescue fellow passengers was murdered by:

- a. Captain Kidd
- b. Charles Lindberg
- c. Mother Teresa
- d. Muslim male extremists mostly between the ages of 17 and 40

3. In 1993 the World Trade Center was bombed the first time by:

- a. Sitting Bull
- b. Grandma Moses
- c. Michael Jordan
- d. Muslim male extremists mostly between the ages of 17 and 40

4. In 2001, airliners were hijacked and crashed into the World Trade Center and the US Pentagon. As a result thousands of people were killed by:

- a. Bugs Bunny, Wiley E. Coyote, Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd
- b. A pizza delivery boy
- c. Mr. Bean
- d. Muslim male extremists between the ages of 17 and 40

5. In November 2009 thirteen people were shot to death at Fort Hood, Texas, by:

- a. Bonnie and Clyde
- b. Captain Kangaroo
- c. Billy Graham
- d. A Muslim male extremist between the ages of 17 and 40

You see, there's no pattern here to justify profiling, is there?

To ensure we Americans never offend anyone, airport security screeners, for example, must not be allowed to profile Muslim males, particularly those between the ages of 17 and 40. Instead screeners must intensify searches of aged women, little kids and people with metal hip replacements.

Update: On Christmas Day 2009 a 23 year old Muslim male extremist attempted to blow up an airliner as it approached Detroit, Michigan.

Steady now; do not jump to conclusions!

The Enemy Within

By Kirby Ferris, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership
The 2005 movie "*Lord of War*" opens with Nicholas Cage standing in a street littered with spent shell casings. He turns and speaks to us with droll sincerity:

"There are over 500 million firearms in worldwide circulation. That is one firearm for every twelve people on the planet. The only question is: How do we arm the other eleven?"

We can assume that this was meant to shock the viewer as diabolical, avaricious, and monstrous.

As for me? I thoughtfully nodded my head and muttered: "Good question. How can we?"

The problem is the "only-soldiers-and-the-police-should-have-guns" crowd. These patently illogical and deluded individuals have a perverse trust in government. In fact, for most of them, the Bigger the Better... ala the United Nations. Many of them are mentally ill. See psychiatrist Dr. Sarah Thompson's terrifically insightful essay "Raging Against Self Defense".

Now let me introduce you to Barbara Frey, a teacher at the University of Minnesota. She very well might turn out to be one of the more dangerous ideologues in recent American history.

Why? Because in 2006 she, along with her ilk, cooked up a U.N. treaty entitled in part "Prevention of human rights violations committed with small arms and light weapons" that aims to disarm every civilian on Earth.

Frey gets right to the point on the first page of her report: "The principle of self-defence [note the British spelling of self-defense] has an important place in international human rights law, but does not provide an independent, supervening right to small arms possession, nor does it ameliorate the duty of States to use due diligence in regulating civilian possession."

Frey wants this to be "The Law of the World", that is, Global "gun control": licensing, fees, registration, centralized databases, and the nearly inevitable widespread confiscation that follows.

Compare Frey's lunatic insinuations to our Second Amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." See JFPO's "2A Today for The USA".

Another sample of Frey's remarkably warped mentality: "Self-defence is sometimes designated

as a "right". There is inadequate legal support for such an interpretation. Self-defence is more properly characterized as a means of protecting the right to life and, as such, a basis for avoiding responsibility for violating the rights of another. Thus, international criminal law designates self-defence as a rule to be followed to determine criminal liability, and not as an independent right which States are required to enforce." (p.9 of U.N. report)

Translation: Your government is not required to allow you to defend yourself. And therefore, logically, the government can prohibit you from defending yourself.

Now look at what has happened to America since she penned this U.N. advisory: the Saul Alinsky tutored Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is simply ecstatic over Frey's proposals. And I'll leave it up to you to decide where Madam Clinton's boss, "Bow Down" Obama, stands.

Now I can hear many of you out there howling: "That treaty will never pass in the Congress!" And you are hopefully right... if enough of us pay attention and make our voices heard.

Barbara Frey has a website at the University of Minnesota. We can assume that she is open to correspondence. I've already sent her JFPO's "Genocide Chart" and asked her what she thought about it. No response yet. (To see what happens when governments apply Barbara Frey's philosophy read JPFO's "Innocents Betrayed".)

The U.N. will pass the "small arms" treaty, whether the U.S. signs on or not. It will become "International Law", and there will be brain challenged U.S. judges who will kowtow to this mockery of our Bill of Rights in their decision making. I promise you this. See "The United Nations is Killing Your Freedoms".

In the meantime, remember Barbara Frey. Truly our arch adversary.

p.s. I'd only change one part of "*Lord of War*". I'd have the bullet hit a blood lustin' soldier in the skull. Then I'd pan back to a bedraggled young woman holding the gun as she defends her family and village from state sponsored genocide. So yes, Nick, how do we arm the other eleven?

-- JPFO ALERT: THE UN GLOBAL GUN BAN TREATY IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK, Feb. 12, 2010

The Enumerated Powers Bill

The key provision of H.R. 450 (S. 1319 is virtually the same): "Each Act of Congress shall contain a concise

and definite statement of the constitutional authority relied upon for the enactment of each portion of that Act. The failure to comply with this section shall give rise to a point of order in either House of Congress."

However, the bill is not the complete solution some of its proponents are claiming.

1. Normally it would require a 2/3 vote to suspend or amend, but the chair of a session may reject a point of order on the issue, and it then requires only a majority to sustain the decision of the chair.

2. Any subsequent bill may suspend, repeal, or make an exception of this rule for that bill.

3. It doesn't insure that the constitutional authority cited be accurate. It merely asks Congress to include a "finding" citing the Constitution that the courts can seize on when they "defer" to acts of Congress. For example, Congress could claim that every act was authorized by the Commerce Clause, no matter how absurd such a claim might be, and the courts would probably go along with that.

4. Because of (3), it could actually make the situation worse, by driving even faster the congressional violations of the Constitution and the court precedents that allow them to do so.

About the only thing that might actually work would be some of the Draft Amendments I have proposed. Short of that, we are left with establishing state nullification commissions to lead statewide civil disobedience of unconstitutional federal actions, which may still be necessary, but is not a clean solution.

Nonetheless, the Enumerated Powers Act is a small step [toward lawful government].

-- jon.roland@constitution.org, Feb. 5, 2010

The cracked see the light

My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.

I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.

I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.

The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.

Men are always whining about how we're suffocating them. Personally,

I think if you can hear them whining, you're not pressing hard enough on the pillow.

They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.

Homeland chief: domestic extremism is top concern

WASHINGTON – Americans who turn to terrorism and plot against the U.S. are now as big a concern as international terrorists, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Sunday.

The government is just starting to confront this reality and does not have a good handle on how to prevent someone from becoming a violent extremist, she said.

One case is that of Najibullah Zazi, the Denver airport driver who has been charged with plotting to use explosives to attack the U.S. Born in Afghanistan, Zazi had lived in the U.S. since he was 14 years old. In recent years, prosecutors say, he traveled overseas to receive training from al-Qaida.

John Brennan, President Barack Obama's homeland security adviser, pointed to a case from late last year when five young Pakistani men living in Northern Virginia traveled to Pakistan seeking training from al-Qaida.

After the men disappeared, their families, members of the local Muslim community, sought help from a non-governmental organization, which put them in touch with the FBI.

"It's that engagement with those local communities that's going to be the critically important mechanism to detect that radicalization even before they depart," Brennan said.

The government has been engaged in this sort of outreach for years. Homeland Security officials have periodic meetings with Muslim communities. And FBI agents in certain parts of the country regularly reach out to Muslim communities and leaders.

-- AP, February 21, 2010

Ed.: a few months ago Sec. Napolitano smeared patriots and the militia as domestic threats; will she now

lump us in with terrorists?

"Star Wars" arrives

After 10 years of work at a cost of more than \$1 billion the U.S. have successfully taken out a ballistic missile with a laser beam mounted to a modified Boeing 747 jumbo jet plane.

The U.S. Missile Defence Agency (MDA) announced the feat after the test in California at Point Mugu's Naval Air Warfare Center-Weapons Division Sea Range. MDA did not say what the range was.

The plane uses lasers to lock onto the missile and follow its trajectory and then brings it down with a single shot from its nose - all in a matter of seconds

It is the first successful test of a directed energy weapon and realises what had previously just been a science fiction fantasy.

Iran and North Korea could now be forced to alter their missile programmes to look at how to counter the laser beams.

'The revolutionary use of directed energy is very attractive for missile defence, with the potential to attack multiple targets at the speed of light at a range of hundreds of kilometres and at a low cost per intercept attempt compared to current technologies,' said the MDA.

Critics claim the system may not be practical during an actual war and last year the programme was scaled back to one plane by the defence secretary Robert Gates.

Defence analyst John Pike told The Guardian this week's test is unlikely to change his mind.

'Gates seemed to believe that there was no prospect of the plane engaging targets at ranges of several hundred kilometres, and that engagements at ranges of less than 100 kilometres were not militarily interesting.'

-- dailymail.co.uk/article-1250734/U-S-Star-Wars-13-February-2010

Attorney seeks Obama birth documents

California lawyer Orly Taitz

who has challenged Barack Obama's eligibility to be president filed a pleading in federal court today in Washington, saying she faces a \$20,000 penalty and a threat to her law license and needs the president's birth documents to defend herself.

Numerous lawsuits have alleged Obama did not meet the U.S. Constitution's requirement that a president be a "natural born citizen" and that he either was not born in Hawaii or was a dual citizen because of his father's British citizenship.

However, none of the cases has reached the plateau of legal discovery so that information about Obama's birth could be obtained. Most have been dismissed based on judges' decisions that the plaintiffs did not have "standing".

Taitz' filing argues she's facing a \$20,000 penalty imposed by Judge Clay D. Land and possible action by the California Bar Association, to which Land forwarded his highly critical order.

Taitz stated she has "a unique standing to bring this case as she suffered unique damages and she was ... harmed by the actions of the defendant."

Her "Defend Our Freedoms Foundation" has been under repeated hacker attacks. She operates through a mailing address of 29839 Santa Margarita Parkway, Suite 100, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., 92688.

"Obama has refused to unseal any of his original vital records," she said. "[including] his original birth certificate, college application records, financial aid forms or his medical records," she argues. "The only record Obama presented was a short version Certification of Live Birth issued in 2007 which didn't provide the name of the hospital, doctor or signatures of any witnesses."

-- WorldNetDaily, February 13, 2010

"I prefer liberty with danger to peace with slavery" – Slogan on the masthead of Tripwire, "A Maryland Gun Rights Advocacy Newsletter", P.O. Box 1071, Beltsville, MD 20704

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